CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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NOTE VERBALE DATED 3 JUNE 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING A PRESS COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC ON 28 MAY 1998, A COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE RIO GROUP ON 29 MAY 1998 AND RESOLUTION C/E/RES.39 ADOPTED ON 29 MAY 1998 BY THE AGENCY FOR THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (OPANAL)

The Permanent Mission of the Argentine Republic to the international organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament and, in connection with the nuclear tests carried out by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, has the honour to request the distribution of the following documents as official documents of the Conference on Disarmament:

1. A press communiqué issued by the Government of the Argentine Republic on 28 May 1998 (annex I);

2. A communiqué issued by the Rio Group on 29 May 1998 (annex II);

3. Resolution C/E/RES.39 adopted on 29 May 1998 by the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) (annex III).

ANNEX I

PRESS COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC

ARGENTINA DEPLORES PAKISTANI NUCLEAR TESTS

The Government of the Argentine Republic, further to its press communiqué of 12 May on Indian nuclear tests, deplores the carrying out of nuclear explosions by Pakistan.

These events increase the risk of a nuclear arms race which could have adverse consequences for peace and security in the region, and for the efforts of the international community to promote non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Argentina calls on the friendly nations involved to put an end to these actions and promptly ratify the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT).

Argentina also reiterates its firm commitment to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, and its conviction that refraining from developing and/or possessing such weapons, as well as complete transparency in this area, offer the best guarantee for stable peace and security in the region and throughout the world and for friendship between nations, as the excellent situation in the South American region demonstrates.

Buenos Aires, 28 May 1998

ANNEX II

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE RIO GROUP

The countries of the Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Concerted Political Action (Rio Group) reiterate their condemnation of nuclear-weapon tests and deplore those carried out on 28 May by Pakistan.

The countries of the Rio Group consider that the resumption of nuclear testing constitutes a dangerous step backwards in the persistent efforts of the international community to secure the complete elimination of nuclear testing and the non-proliferation of weapons of this type.

They also reiterate their deep concern at the risk that exercises like this one and those carried out by India on 11 and 13 May, which prompted widespread opposition on the part of the international community, will lead to the outbreak of a nuclear arms race in South Asia, and express their concern that these actions may endanger international peace.

The countries of the Rio Group urge the Governments of Pakistan and India to enter into an irreversible commitment vis-à-vis the international community to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, to renounce nuclear tests of all types and to accede promptly to the international instruments on this subject.

Panama City, 29 May 1998

ANNEX III

RESOLUTION C/E/Res.39 OF THE OPANAL COUNCIL ON THE NUCLEAR TESTS CARRIED OUT BY THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN

The member and observer States of the OPANAL Council

Bearing in mind that the first nuclear-weapon-free zone in the world, established in Latin America and the Caribbean under the Treaty of Tlatelolco, places on the member countries the inescapable duty to preserve that state of affairs and reaffirms their commitment to contribute to peace;

Recalling resolution C/E/Res.38 of 14 May 1998;

Reiterating their strongest condemnation of the carrying out of any type of nuclear-weapon testing in any part of the world,

Decide:

1. To express their forceful opposition to the military nuclear tests carried out in Pakistan on 28 May 1998 and their concern at the possibility that those tests and those carried out recently by India may lead to a nuclear arms race in South Asia.

2. To call on the Governments of Pakistan and India to sign the nuclear non-proliferation instruments promptly and participate in the negotiating process that will make possible nuclear disarmament in all its aspects.

3. To urge the Governments of Pakistan and India to enter into an irreversible commitment vis-à-vis the international community to renounce nuclear tests of all types.

4. To entrust to the Secretary-General the task of transmitting this resolution to the Governments of Pakistan and India, all the member and associated States of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, the United Nations and the Organization of American States.

(Adopted at the 36th special meeting, held on 29 May 1998)